

expanding said laser beam in a first direction to form an expanded laser beam;

removing a peripheral portion of said expanded laser beam [though] through a mask to form a masked laser beam, said peripheral portion including at least edges of said expanded laser beam extending in said first direction; and

condensing said masked laser beam in a second direction orthogonal to said first direction [in order] after removing said peripheral portion to form a [line-shaped] condensed laser beam [on an] at the object, said condensed laser beam being line-shaped.

6. (Amended) A method for treating an object with a laser comprising the steps of:

emitting a rectangular-shaped laser beam from [a] the laser;

expanding said laser beam in a first direction to form an expanded laser beam;

removing a peripheral portion of said expanded laser beam [though] through a mask to form a masked laser beam, said peripheral portion [said portion] including at least edges of said expanded laser beam extending in said first direction; and

condensing said masked laser beam in a second direction orthogonal to said first direction [in order] after removing said peripheral portion to form a [line-shaped] condensed laser beam [on an] at the object, said condensed laser beam being line-shaped.

11. (Amended) A method for treating an object with a laser comprising the steps of:

emitting a laser beam from [a] the laser;